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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 34 | Min 23 | Humidity 39% Partly sunny Sensex 76,015 | Nifty 23,815 | Gold 1,53,599 | Silver 2,77,278 | Dollar 95.32 | Euro 112.22 | GBP 130.01

IN THE SUMMERTIME

Parents want kids to enjoy holidays without depending on screens even as summer camps get costlier by the year

PAGE 2

CUT IT OUT

Plan to axe 50 trees in institute campus in Malleswaram near fast-drying Sankey Tank causes groundwater table concern

PAGE 3

Police say retrieving stolen vehicles becomes tougher if they are taken to neighbouring states where demand for second-hand goods in rural areas is high as just 123 of 1,460 stolen two-wheeler thefts traced in city this year

GONE IN 60 SECONDS

In some cases, bikes are dismantled and just spare parts are sold in illegal markets

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Despite awareness campaigns and repeated police advisories, two-wheeler thefts continue to remain a major concern in Bengaluru, with the issue persisting largely due to the lack of secure parking facilities in residential areas.

According to police data, the number of two-wheeler theft cases has reduced in 2025 compared to 2024. However, as many as 1,460 two-wheeler thefts have been reported in the first four months of this year, of which only 123 cases have been detected so far.

City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh said the thefts are also driven by the high demand for second-hand vehicles in rural areas and the illegal market for stolen vehicles in neighbouring states.

According to the Commissioner, safety concerns continue to remain a major issue as many residents park their vehicles outside gates due to inadequate parking space inside apartments and PG accommodations. He further stated that police are facing challenges in detection because there is a high demand for stolen vehicles in rural areas near Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, where they are allegedly sold at lower prices without proper documents or valid registration papers.

Recently, police busted an inter-state two-wheeler theft racket and arrested two accused involved in stealing vehicles, forging registration documents, and selling stolen bikes at cheaper prices. A total of 51 stolen two-wheelers and 501 fake registration certificate (RC) cards worth ₹41.67 lakh were seized during the operation.

The case was registered

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>

“Citizens also need to take responsibility by avoiding parking vehicles on public roads and instead ensuring adequate parking space within their properties. The RTO should also verify local addresses during vehicle registration and monitor how many vehicles are registered under a single address

—Vinod Jacob, urban strategist

Follow the fruit

Mango Board wants to borrow a page from America’s apple-picking playbook

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Taking inspiration from the hugely popular apple-picking tours in the United States, the Karnataka State Mango Development and Marketing Corporation is planning to launch a first-of-its-kind ‘Mango Picking Tour’ in June. This tour will offer mango lovers a chance to step directly into orchards, handpick their favourite fruits, and carry them home fresh from the trees.

The initiative is expected to combine tourism, awareness, and direct farm purchases while giving consumers confidence about the quality and natural ripening of the fruit they buy.

The proposed tour is being designed as an immersive orchard experience for the public. Visitors from Bengaluru will be transported in special buses to mango-growing regions across the state, where they can spend a day amid sprawling orchards during the peak of the mango season. Participants will not only get to choose and pluck mangoes themselves, but will also be served meals at the farms, turning the exercise into a recreational rural outing.

Unlike fruits bought from city markets, which often raise concerns about artificial ripening using chemicals, the mangoes sourced directly from orchards are expected to reassure buyers about freshness and quality. The corporation believes the experience will also help people better understand mango

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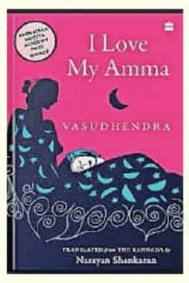
THINGS TO DO

01 Bond beyond words



Atta Galatta is bringing an evocative discussion on I Love My Amma, a collection of essays that serve as a tender, funny and deeply moving tribute to mothers and the complex bonds shared with them.
Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar;
When: May 15, 6 pm

02 Magical spectacle

Bhoomija presents Saavirada Sharanavva, Stories and Songs, a deeply personal performance by one of India's most revered theatre practitioners, B Jayashree — weaving together memory, music and the magic of the stage.
Where: Prestige Centre for Performing Arts, Konanakunte;
When: May 16, 6.30 pm

03 Tunes and treats

Daysie RR Nagar celebrates its 2nd anniversary with 'Sakkath Nights, Sakkath Prices', a week-long celebration bringing together value-driven offers and a line-up of Kannada music-led experiences.
Where: Daysie, RR Nagar;
When: Until May 17, 12 pm onwards

04 Good ol' days

Magical World, an exhibition featuring a vibrant collection of artworks by Badrunissa Irfan, brings alive the magic of childhood and the warmth of simple moments through playful, hand-painted characters and scenes.
Where: Sublime Gallery, UB City;
When: Until May 30

05 Joyful weekend

The Oterra Hotel is hosting a Kids Carnival Brunch, bringing a vibrant world of cartoon legends and superhero adventures. While parents enjoy a premium spread, children can dive into interactive games, live performances and more.
Where: The Oterra Hotel, 24@43, Electronic City;
When: Every Sunday until May 31

No scrolls, only skills this summer

More parents turn to summer camps and skill-building classes during school vacations to keep kids off gadgets, though rising costs become major concern

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Parents are increasingly encouraging children to explore extracurricular and recreational activities during holidays

With summer holidays still on for many Bengaluru schools, parents observe that children are spending more time on screens and staying indoors, rather than engaging in physical activities. BM spoke to parents, educators and apartment societies on initiatives to keep kids busy during the holidays.

According to parents, during the academic year, children are largely occupied with homework, school, tuition and extracurricular activities, leaving little room for gadget usage. However, during holidays, children often turn to increased use of television, mobile phones, and iPads, preferring screens over outdoor play.

Many parents have enrolled their children for summer camps but they believe that the programmes are becoming increasingly expensive. Activities such as handwriting improvement, storytelling, arts and crafts, swimming, skating, basketball, dance and music are priced somewhere between Rs 7,000 and can go up to Rs 15,000 per child for two to three weeks of summer camps.

"Many camps are expensive and parents are not always sure if they are a right fit for their children, or if they are gaining enough for the amount that is charged. I have noticed that nowadays children prefer staying indoors which has resulted in increased screen time – something I have noticed in my own daughter as well," said Nisha MS, parent of a seven-year-old.

Children should connect with nature rather than remain confined indoors as sedentary lifestyle during formative years could harm their health as they grow, says teacher

A newer concept catching attention in parental circles is the Intuition Camp, organised by a reputed foundation. The camp offers both online and offline sessions, typically running for 10 to 14 days, with fees reaching up to Rs 10,000 per child.

Meanwhile, several large apartment complexes host in-house summer activities, usually priced around Rs 4,000 for two weeks. Most of these sessions are conducted by skilled residents.

Despite the abundance of activities, many large apartment societies currently do not host social-awareness programmes such as clean-up drives or anti-pollution campaigns. However, they assure that in the future such initiatives will be introduced, giving children the chance to actively participate and better prepare themselves for the future.

"Children need to be occupied, their brains need to be exercised regularly. Exposing them to mobile phones during meals, not regulating gadget use and lack of enforcement of discipline can result in children wasting their precious time and capacity. It is important for parents to instil the habit of reading instead of making everything visual, so the child is not out of place when school starts," said Aishwarya, retired teacher.

She emphasised that children should connect with nature rather than remain confined indoors, warning that a sedentary lifestyle during formative years can harm their health as they grow.

"My children have already begun preparing for competitive exams. Summer holidays are the best time for them to finish their course and revise all through the year. They are currently taking coaching classes and have joined a fitness class to keep the balance," said Vishnu, father of two teenagers, highlighting that maintaining a balance between physical activity and academics plays a vital role in children's overall development.

Many educators believe that introducing environmental activities, social work, first aid and financial literacy is the need of the hour. They emphasise that disaster management, safety and security training and even junior-level combat tactics for both boys and girls should be prioritised to ensure that the younger generation is mentally and physically prepared to handle crises in adulthood.

Canara Bank posts 13% rise in net profit

Canara Bank reported strong financial performance for the quarter and year ended March 31, 2026, with global business rising 12.11 per cent year-on-year to Rs 28.06 lakh crore, driven by robust growth in advances and retail lending. Global deposits increased 9.71 per cent to Rs 15.68 lakh crore, while global advances grew 15.30 per cent to Rs 12.37 lakh crore. The bank posted a 12.69 per cent rise in net profit to Rs 19,187 crore and an operating profit of Rs 33,019 crore, up 5.19 per cent. Retail credit surged 32.93 per cent, led by housing loan growth of 17.55 per cent and vehicle loans at 26.33 per cent, while RAM credit expanded 19.73 per cent. Fee-based income also rose 8.83 per cent to Rs 9,649 crore. The board recommended a dividend of 210 per cent of paid-up capital for FY26, compared to 200 per cent in FY25. As of March-end, the bank operated 10,097 branches and 11,306 ATMs and recyclers across the country. **–BMB**

Govt school mergers face strong pushback

A protest was held in Lohithanagar, Nelamangala taluk, on Sunday against the proposed merger of government schools under the Karnataka Public Schools (KPS) Magnet Scheme and PM SHRI project. Activists, parents and villagers gathered in front of Dr TV Mariyappa Memorial Government Higher Primary School and Government Lower Primary School, displaying banners.

The protest was organised by the Bengaluru District Committee of the All India Democratic Students Organisation (AIDSO), which alleged that the state government is attempting to shut down thousands of village schools through school mergers.

Addressing the gathering, Subhash Bettadakoppa, State Treasurer of AIDSO Karnataka, said the government's '8 Education Guarantees' were misleading and claimed that over 40,000 government schools could be affected under the KPS Magnet Scheme. He also pointed to resistance from villagers in Arsikere. **–BMB**

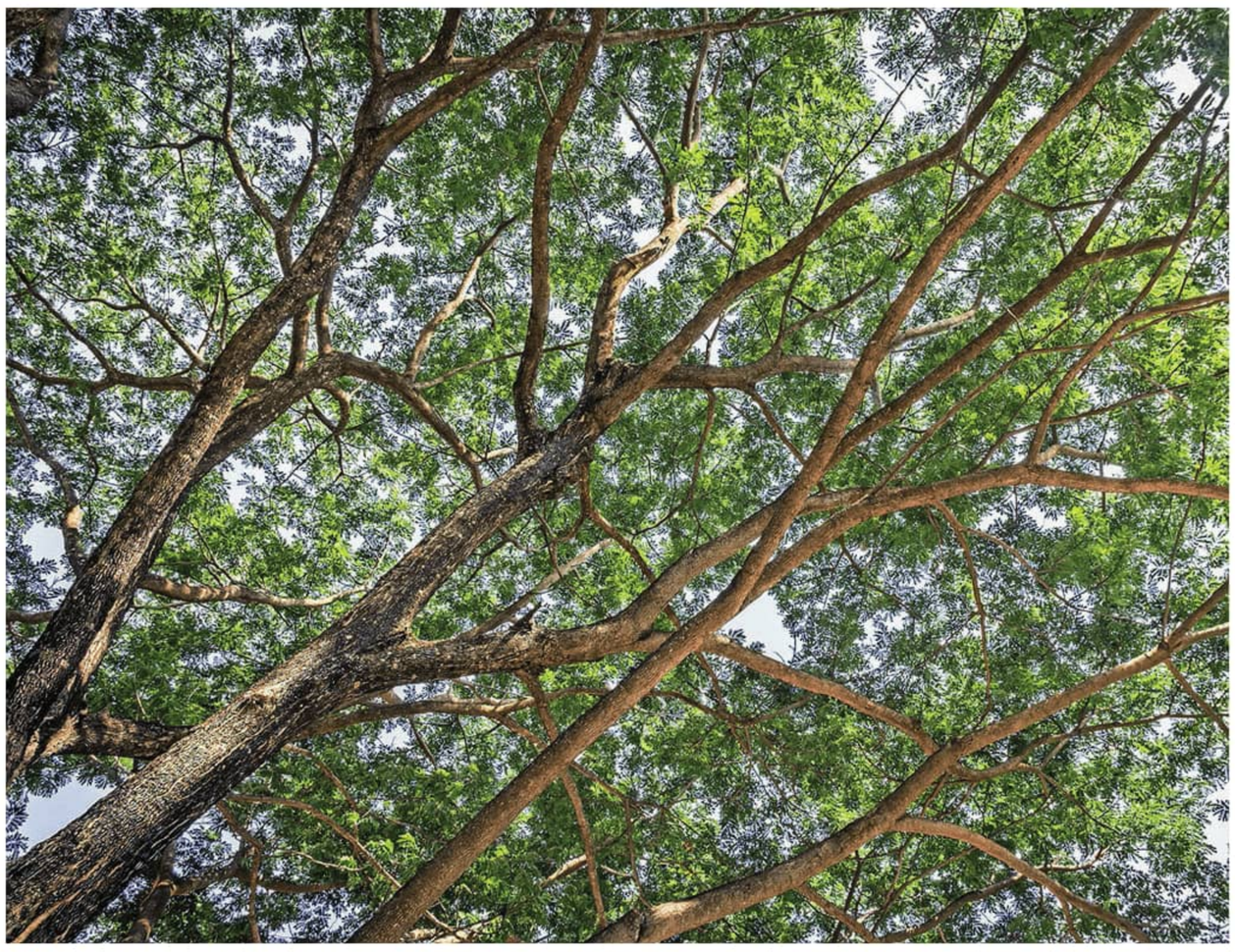
Nandi Hills tickets to be available online

Visitors to the popular tourist destination of Nandi Hills in Chikkaballapura district will soon be able to book entry tickets online, helping them avoid long queues at the entrance gate. Currently, tourists must purchase tickets and pay vehicle entry fees at counters near the entrance before accessing the hill station through the main gate. During weekends, public holidays, summer and monsoon seasons, heavy tourist inflow often leads to long waiting lines, crowding, arguments and delays at ticket counters.

To address these issues, the Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation (KSTDC) is developing an online ticketing system that will allow tourists to book entry tickets and pay vehicle charges digitally in advance. Tourism department sources said the website is currently under development and the pricing structure is being finalised. Officials believe the move will help reduce waiting time. **–BMB**

Axing trees will only further rock the groundwater table

Malleswaram residents oppose IWST's proposal to remove 50 trees, warning of ecological damage to groundwater recharge near Sankey Tank



Malleswaram residents question how eco-friendly sewage project can justify cutting mature trees sheltering birds and wildlife, urging authorities to explore alternative locations before disturbing one of the area's fragile green pockets

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The Indian Wood Science and Technology (IWST), in Malleswaram, has submitted an application to the forest department of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) seeking permission to remove 50 trees inside the premises of the institute. This is to make way for an ECO-sewage treatment plant on the campus.

As per the public notice issued by GBA, the trees need to be removed as they stand in the proposed project area. According to IWST, the site has been selected in accordance with the norms of the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board. The institute has requested GBA to conduct a survey and accord permission for the removal of the trees at the earliest. The trees proposed to be felled include paper mulberry, Australian pine, silver oak, sandalwood and tamarind.

BM reported about Sankey Tank drying up on May 11

However, the public notice has triggered concerns among residents. They say the campus's proximity to Sankey Tank is a major concern, especially given the alarmingly low water level recorded in the lake this year.

"The lake, as pointed out by experts, thrives on groundwater. Trees and natural vegetation create a conducive environment for rainwater to percolate and recharge the groundwater table. Removing trees in the area will only cause more damage to the lake, which is already struggling," said a resident of Malleswaram.

Residents also said the public notice issued by GBA should have explained the reason for the project while providing clarity on the concept of ECO-STP.

"The public notice says trees need to be removed for the construction of ECO-STP. However, there is no further information on this project. What does eco sewerage even mean when 50 mature trees, home to various species, are being chopped down to build it? I have spent 10 days on the IWST campus during a bamboo workshop. The trees proposed to be removed are home to birds and animals and play an important role in maintaining the campus's biodiversity," said Chitra, a resident of the area.

According to experts who spoke to BM, eco-friendly sewage treatment plants rely on sustainable and low-energy treatment methods. The process of purifying wastewater in such plants mimics natural ecosystems and mostly uses biological agents such as microorganisms, earthworms and aquatic plants to break down contaminants. This enables water reuse while minimising sludge production and maintenance expenses.

Experts said that, given the recent loss of urban green patches due to development projects across the city, any proposal requiring tree removal in the city centre should be revisited. They suggested authorities either work out an alternative plan or identify a different location for such projects.

Hoysala officers save 5 trapped in building blaze

In a fire accident reported near Durgashree Hotel in Nagarabhavi on Saturday at 1.52 am, officers from Hoysala 86 of Kamakshipalya police station reached the spot within 11 minutes. On arrival, the police encountered huge dense smoke engulfing the building, posing a challenge for workers trapped inside. After carefully assessing the situation, the officers, along with local residents, managed to rescue five persons from the building. They later arranged an ambulance and shifted the injured persons to a nearby hospital for treatment. Soon after, personnel from the Fire and Emergency Services Department reached the spot and brought the fire under control.

In a similar incident on April 27 at 7.07 am, a hut near Rani Park in Wilson Garden caught fire. Hoysala 20 from Wilson Garden police station reached the spot within a minute and took preventive measures to extinguish the fire. No casualties were reported in either incident.

—BMB

Priest kidnapped over couple's elopement dispute

A 27-year-old temple priest was allegedly kidnapped, assaulted, and forced to record a video appeal by a group of three persons in Bengaluru after his younger brother reportedly eloped with a woman whose family opposed their relationship. The Byadarahalli police have registered a case against the accused and launched a search operation.

According to police, Shivakumar was allegedly in a relationship with a young woman, a relationship strongly opposed by her family. Police said the couple recently left their homes after facing resistance and objections from the woman's relatives.

Police said the accused, including the woman's father Basavaraj and some relatives, allegedly targeted Shivakumar's elder brother Kotresh after failing to trace the couple. Kotresh, a priest at a temple in the Byadarahalli area, was allegedly called by the accused under the pretext of accompanying them to the police station for discussions.

Investigators said the accused abducted him in a car, tied his hands and legs, assaulted him, and forced him to record a video appeal. Further investigation is underway.

—BMB

Wedding invite scam drains furniture trader

A 42-year-old furniture shop owner from Nayandahalli lost Rs 5 lakh after downloading a wedding invitation file sent through WhatsApp. The file, named "Wedding APK File Invitation", came from a number belonging to a known person.

After clicking on the file, fraudsters allegedly gained access to his data and carried out multiple transactions through his bank account. Realising that money had been withdrawn from his account, the victim suspected a cyberattack and approached the police.

Police registered a case under Section 318 of the BNS and Sections 66C and 66D of the Information Technology Act. Officials have launched efforts to trace the accused and recover the money.

—BMB

2 children killed in fire at labour shed

Two children were killed in a tragic fire mishap after a temporary labour shed caught fire at K Narayanapura near Kothanur in northeast Bengaluru on Monday afternoon around 1.30 pm.

The deceased were identified as Arjun (5) and his three-year-old sister Asha, children of Durgappa and Savitri, natives of Devadurga taluk in Raichur district. The family had shifted to Bengaluru around four months ago in search of daily wage work and were living in one of more than 10 temporary labour sheds built on private land belonging to a man identified as Krishnamurthy.

According to police, the children's parents had gone to work around 9 am, leaving the siblings in the care of their grandmother. Preliminary inquiry revealed that the grandmother had briefly stepped out to use the washroom when the children reportedly entered a nearby vacant shed to play, as they regularly did.

At the time of the incident, a large quantity of clothes was stored inside the shed and was completely burnt. Police suspect the children first suffered suffocation due to dense smoke before sustaining severe burn injuries as the fire spread rapidly inside the shed. One child died on the spot, while the other succumbed at a hospital.

Kothanur police rushed to the spot after receiving information around 2 pm. Scene of Crime officers and BESCOM officials inspected the site. Cause unknown, bodies sent for postemortem.

—BMB

ಎಕ್ಸಲಂಟ್ ಕೋಚಿಂಗ್ ಕ್ಲಾಸಿಸ್
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REGULAR CLASSES-2026-27
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Classes Start from 08.06.2026
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2026 Results
Sainik Schools
Above 250 Marks- 083 Kittur - 095
Above 200 Marks- 316 Navodaya - 029
Basavaraj Koulagi
Founder Chairman
Excellent Group of Institutions
Vijayapur & Dharwad
Separate Hostel Facility For Boys & Girls

Avalahalli Lake distress raises serious environmental questions

Environmentalists demand immediate expert inspection and restoration after machinery allegedly damaged grass islands and natural sewage filtration

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Environmental group Green Circle and residents of Avalahalli in Yelahanka have raised serious concerns over destruction of grassland ecosystems, damage to lake fencing, untreated sewage inflow, and delays in rajakaluve rejuvenation at Avalahalli Lake.

In a representation submitted to authorities on May 11, the group alleged that recent activities around the lake have severely affected its fragile biodiversity and ecological balance. According to the letter, Green Circle has actively worked to protect the lake ecosystem for the past five years. The organisation stated that it conducted awareness drives and conservation efforts to curb illegal activities around the lake, including unauthorised fishing, liquor consumption, and open defecation.

The group highlighted that on December 7, 2025, a mega lake walk was organised under the leadership of S R Vishwanath to create awareness about the importance of rajakaluves and scientific lake maintenance.

However, residents alleged that recent de-weeding and desilting works carried out using JCB machinery have caused extensive destruction of grasslands surrounding and within the lake ecosystem. They said these grasslands play a critical ecological role by naturally filtering sewage, preventing polluted water from directly entering the lake, and supporting microorganisms, insects, and birds.

JCB-led de-weeding works allegedly damaged grass islands crucial for sewage filtration and bird habitats

> **Avalahalli Lake supports several uncommon bird species including Crakes, Herons, Munias, Moorhens, and Swamphens. Indiscriminate destruction of grass islands has severely affected biodiversity**
> –V Selvarajan, Chairman, Green Circle

"Avalahalli Lake supports several uncommon bird species including Crakes, Herons, Munias, Moorhens, and Swamphens. Indiscriminate destruction of grass islands has severely affected biodiversity," said V Selvarajan, Chairman, Green Circle.

Members have demanded that ecological and environmental experts immediately inspect affected areas and initiate restoration measures for damaged grass islands. The group also enclosed a checklist from global bird-monitoring platform eBird documenting 96 bird species observed around the lake ecosystem. Residents also expressed concern over damage caused to portions of lake fencing during entry of JCB machinery. They alleged that sections of fencing constructed using public funds were dismantled to facilitate machine movement and have not yet been restored. According to the representation, the northern main gate could have been used instead of breaking portions of fencing. Residents fear leaving area open may again encourage illegal activities that have been reduced following continuous monitoring by citizens and volunteers.

"Over the last five years, residents and volunteers have worked tirelessly to protect Avalahalli Lake and restore biodiversity. Recent destruction of grasslands and damage to fencing have undone much progress achieved through community participation. These grasslands are not wastelands; they are vital ecological buffers that support birdlife, filter pollutants, and sustain lake ecosystem. Authorities must restore damaged areas, prevent untreated sewage from entering lakes, and repair fencing to prevent misuse," said Selvarajan.

Another major issue flagged by residents is continued inflow of untreated sewage into the lake from nearby layouts. The group claimed repeated requests to allow only treated water into the lake have not resulted in action.

Selvarajan also pointed out that lake inlets remain clogged and issue has become entangled due to overlapping jurisdiction between BWSSB, panchayat authorities overseeing nearby layouts, and lake administration bodies.

Residents further raised concerns over delays in rejuvenating rajakaluve connected to lake, alleging repeated representations and follow-ups have failed to bring meaningful progress.

Year-long roadblock finally cleared, Pottery Road breathes again

Completion of drain work near railway subway ends prolonged inconvenience and restores safer passage for daily commuters in Richards Town

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Residents of Richards Town and motorists have appreciated the South Western Railway (SWR) authorities for removing precast concrete box culverts that had been lying on Pottery Road for more than a year and for completing pending drain work.

The SWR authorities assigned a contractor to complete construction of the drain near the railway underpass at Tannery Road Junction. The contractor successfully completed the pending work on Sunday night.

Bangalore Mirror had published a report, Culvert-astrophe blocks roads, leaves pedestrians stranded daily, on May 2, 2026, highlighting how concrete debris had paralysed the busy Pulakeshinagar crossing, disrupting vehicle movement and denying safe passage for pedestrians near the railway subway. Bengaluru North City Corporation (BNCC) Executive Engineer had stated that the civic body had no role in the matter since construction of the drain was being handled by SWR authorities.

The SWR Public Relations Officer had assured that the matter would be conveyed to the engineer concerned for immediate action.

However, residents and motorists had not expected SWR authorities to resolve the issue so quickly.

"I thank the SWR authorities for taking prompt action to remove precast concrete box culverts that were lying on the road for more than a year. I appeal to them to complete all pending works, including removing mounds of mud along the compound wall constructed by SWR. They must install streetlights and construct a footpath for the benefit of pedestrians," said Zaffar Sait, a long-time resident of Richards Town.

Appreciating and thanking SWR authorities for removing the precast concrete box culverts, social activist Sameen Ahmed said the structures were not only an eyesore but also a health hazard.

"SWR authorities must construct the much-needed footpath along the railway compound on Pottery Road opposite the slaughterhouse," he said.

> **I appreciate the SWR authorities for taking prompt action to remove precast concrete box culverts that were lying on the road for more than a year**
> –Zaffar Sait, resident of Richards Town

Workers are seen using precast concrete culvert boxes to complete the drain work at Tannery Road Junction

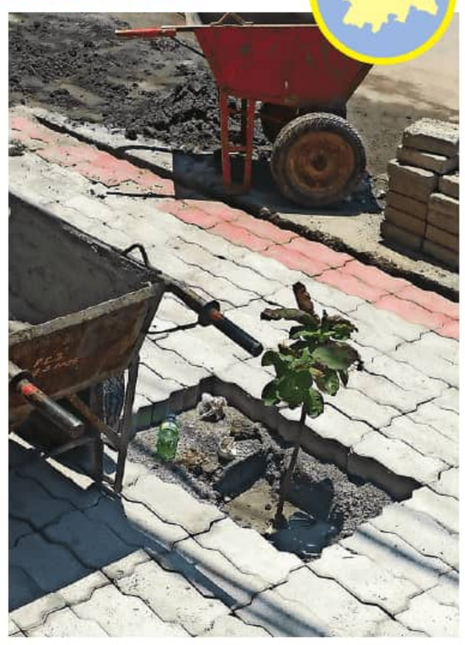
BangaloreMirror
leaves pedestrians stranded daily
Concrete debris paralyses busy Pulakeshinagar crossing, crippling vehicle movement and denying safe passage for walkers near railway subway daily

As reported by Bangalore Mirror on May 2, abandoned concrete culverts on Pottery Road had left motorists stranded and pedestrians without safe access

whatsapp MIRROR 9591233247

Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Plant death
Austin Town



Unauthorised cementing around a plant in Austin Town is restricting root growth and water absorption, threatening its healthy development and raising concerns over improper maintenance practices.

Water woes
MM Layout

Rampant unauthorised BWSSB water connections at 4th A Cross, MM Layout, Kavalbyrasandra are causing low water pressure and inconvenience to residents, while BWSSB RT Nagar officials remain unresponsive.

Repair needed
Vinobha Nagar

The road behind KG Halli Police Station in Vinobha Nagar remains in poor condition, causing inconvenience to commuters and requiring immediate repair to ensure safer and smoother movement.

Cracks in walls, ceilings: One man's home renovation shatters another's dream home

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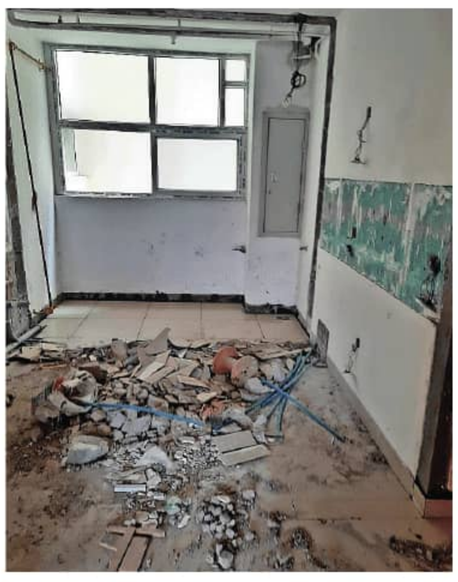

Police visited the flat after renovation work on one floor causes cracks in walls of house below

Ganeshan Rajan had spent all his life savings to buy a flat at a residential apartment complex on Kanakapura Road near Doddakallasandra Metro Station in Bengaluru South one year ago. The flat on the 21st floor was a serene pad for one year. But ever since work on expansion of the kitchen in one of the flats on the 22nd floor began, the family has not known peace.

Though the family had learned to deal with the noise of the construction, it was when one of the walls of their bedroom developed a crack that they decided to raise their objections.

"The ceiling also developed cracks at different locations due to the impact of demolition of walls in the kitchen in the flat above. I advised them to stop the work but they haven't paid any heed. I informed one of the managing committee members of the apartment complex, but they told me it would not be possible for the committee to prevent such renovation works," said Ganeshan. Ganeshan approached Subramanyapura Police Station and sub-inspector Praveen Shetty visited the spot.

"The police registered a less petty case (LPT). I expected the police to stop the ongoing construction work but nothing has been done. The police told me that my complaint is civil in nature," he said.

He said that two security guards prevented him from entering the premises.

The Sub-Inspector of Subramanyapura Police Station told BM that this was a civil dispute. "We have registered an NCR based on the complaint by Ganeshan Rajan on the alleged misbehaviour of the security guards," the Sub-Inspector said.

The complainant said that as per the interior guidelines prepared by the realtor that manages the flats, concrete or structural walls must remain unchanged, chipping or alteration of walls is strictly prohibited and removal of floor tiles is not permitted.

"In our continuous effort to maintain the quality and safety standards of our community, we would like to remind you of the guidelines and restrictions pertaining to interior works within the flats," the guidelines read.

Bengaluru South City Corporation (BSCC) Assistant Executive Engineer said that no structural change is allowed after buyers get the occupancy certificate. "I am not aware if the flat owner concerned availed of permission from the Town Planning Department for structural change," the AEE said.

Judges redraw search proceedings rules

The High Court of Karnataka has clarified that search proceedings under the Income Tax Act are linked to the individual against whom tax authorities record reasons for initiating action, and not merely to the ownership of the premises where the search is conducted.

A Division Bench comprising Justice SG Pandit and Justice KV Aravind delivered the ruling while allowing an appeal by the Income Tax Department and overturning an earlier decision by a single judge passed in 2025.

The matter arose from a search conducted in September 2017 at the residence of Ram Mohan Raju.

The authorisation for the search, however, had been issued in the name of K Narayan Raju after officials suspected that records linked to him were being stored at the premises. During the operation, authorities allegedly recovered documents belonging to Narayan Raju and subsequently initiated proceedings under Section 153C of the Income Tax Act, which deals with the assessment of persons whose assets or papers are discovered during a search targeting someone else.

Ram Mohan Raju challenged the move, arguing that since his residence had been searched, he should be treated as the primary subject of the search under Section 153A rather than as an "other person" under Section 153C. He contended that this distinction carried procedural consequences in his favour. A single judge had accepted this argument and set aside the notices.

The Division Bench disagreed, holding that the status of a "searched person" is determined solely by the individual against whom authorities have formally recorded the statutory "reason to believe" under Section 132 before carrying out the search.

The court observed that a search at premises owned or occupied by another person does not automatically confer upon that individual the legal status of being the searched person.

It further explained that Section 153A applies exclusively to those directly named in the search authorisation, while proceedings against others connected to materials seized during the operation can only be initiated under Section 153C, provided the conditions prescribed by law are met. **BMB**

Fatal crash convict gets leniency

HIGH COURT

The Karnataka High Court has observed that the concept of "blood money" has no place in Indian criminal jurisprudence while modifying the sentence of a 71-year-old man convicted in a fatal road accident case.

The court reduced his prison term from one year to imprisonment till the rising of the court, citing his advanced age and poor health.

Justice V Srishananda passed the order while hearing a revision petition filed by Syed Saifudeen, a wheelchair-bound senior citizen who had challenged the sentence imposed by the lower courts.

While granting relief on the quantum of punishment, the court upheld his conviction for offences related to rash and negligent driving causing death.

The case arose from a 2012 accident on Mysuru's KRS Ring Road. According to the prosecution, the accused was test-driving a vehicle when it rammed into a motorcycle from behind.

The collision resulted in the death of a woman travelling pillion, while another rider sustained serious injuries.

A trial court had convicted the accused in 2018 under provisions of the Indian Penal Code dealing with negligent driving and causing death by negligence. The conviction was later upheld by the sessions court, prompting the accused to approach the High Court.

During the hearing, the petitioner was produced before the court in a wheelchair. His counsel submitted that he was physically dependent on others for basic day-to-day activities.

Taking note of his medical condition and overall circumstances, the High Court held that incarceration at this stage would serve no meaningful purpose.

The court also took into account the petitioner's offer to pay additional compensation of Rs 5 lakh to the deceased woman's family, apart from the amount already awarded by the Motor Accident Claims Tribunal.

At the same time, the bench clarified that such compensation could not be treated as "blood money", noting that the principle is alien to India's criminal justice framework.

The High Court ultimately modified the sentence to simple imprisonment till the rising of the court and directed the petitioner to deposit the enhanced compensation amount before the trial court within the prescribed period. **BMB**

'Big guarantee' to be announced for Bengaluru city, says DKS

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Monday said that a "big guarantee" will be announced for Bengaluru city on May 13, without sharing any further details.

The move comes in the wake of Karnataka State Election Commissioner GS Sangreshi on Friday saying elections to the five city corporations under the GBA will be held anytime between June 14 and June 24, and the exact date will be announced soon. "With Surjewala, we held a political meeting. But today, I called a meeting of officials and gave certain instructions. On May 13 we are giving a big guarantee for Bengaluru city, I will inform you about it on May 13," Shivakumar, who is also the Minister in charge of Bengaluru Development, told reporters.

Also, the State Congress Chief, Shivakumar, was responding to a question about a meeting he, CM Siddaramaiah, and a few senior leaders held with AICC General Secretary in-charge of Karnataka, Randeep Singh Surjewala, regarding the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) polls. Congress leaders, according to party sources, discussed poll preparations in case the Supreme Court rejects the GBA or the government's plea to defer elections due to manpower constraints from the SIR and census. MLA and CM's legal advisor A S Ponnanna said holding GBA polls is a "challenge" as officials are engaged in compulsory SIR and census work till June. He added the government will place the factual position before the Supreme Court and abide by its decision. **PTI**

Fallen giants choke civic response

Even after ten days of heavy rain and strong winds that uprooted hundreds of trees across Bengaluru, the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) faces a severe shortage of space to store and process the debris.

With no officially designated depot for tree storage, civic authorities have been forced to dump logs and branches in temporary locations such as crematorium grounds, lake premises, vacant plots and other sites. Officials said 516 trees and 1,305 branches fell across the city on April 29 and 30 alone, and they are currently being stored in eight temporary depots on the outskirts of the city. Another 16 temporary sites have been identified ahead of the monsoon season.

GBA forest officials said they cleared fallen trees blocking roads, but transporting and storing them remains a major challenge.

Authorities said the absence of a notified two-acre central depot for the GBA forest division has significantly delayed clearance operations.

Large trees must be cut into pieces and transported using around 15 tippers, four cranes and private teams, often requiring multiple trips because of their size.

Traffic restrictions and the long distances to temporary depots have further slowed operations. Officials noted that while the Forest Department has its own notified depots, the GBA cannot legally use them because urban tree species differ from forest timber categories.

Around 80 per cent of the fallen trees belong to ornamental and flowering species such as copper pod, gulmohar and rain tree, which are large and heavy. Once collected, the wood must be weighed and auctioned through online tenders as per regulations.

Civic officials said a centrally located notified depot would have saved time and accelerated rain-related clearance work across the city. **BMB**

BM Trippin' Tales

Pilgrims in peril as big cat fears loom along MM Hills route

Repeated leopard attacks on devotees using forest pilgrimage routes raise concerns over weak enforcement and inadequate long-term safety measures

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Fresh leopard attacks in the Male Mahadeshwara Hills Wildlife Sanctuary have triggered serious concerns over pilgrim safety, especially for thousands of devotees from Bengaluru who regularly undertake foot pilgrimages to the popular shrine. The latest tragedy occurred on Saturday when a Bengaluru boy, part of a group of devotees heading toward Nagamale, was dragged away and killed by a leopard. The incident has once again exposed the growing conflict between wildlife movement and pilgrim activity in the forested region.

This latest death comes just months after a youth from Mandya, travelling on foot to MM Hills in January, was similarly attacked and killed by a leopard. Days later, another leopard reportedly attempted to attack a child in the area. Repeated incidents have now raised questions about the adequacy of safety measures for devotees using forest routes to the temple, particularly during weekends, festivals and religious seasons when footfall from Bengaluru and nearby districts increases significantly.

Fear among devotees grow as repeated lepord attacks continue along Nagamale pilgrimage route at MM hills

Night-time pilgrimages through forest stretches are turning increasingly dangerous as leopard movement near human pathways grows, prompting urgent calls for permanent protection, stricter patrols and safer trekking regulations

Following the January incident, the Forest Department captured the leopard believed to be responsible for the attack and introduced temporary safety measures, including fixed timings for foot pilgrimages and escort arrangements by forest staff during fairs and festival periods. However, local residents and tribal welfare groups alleged that these measures gradually weakened over time, leading to lax enforcement in sensitive stretches of the route. They argued that forest patrols around leopard-prone zones and restricted timings for pilgrims continued only for a short duration.

Hanur MLA MR Manjunath said the government would discuss long-term measures to prevent such incidents from recurring. He said Forest Department officials had been instructed to strengthen protection for devotees and create awareness against travelling through the forest during late-night and early-morning hours, when wild animal movement peaks. Tribal Development Association leader Muttaiah said faith and nature must coexist without conflict. He warned that unless the temple administration and Forest Department coordinate to make the Nagamale route safer, fear among devotees would continue to grow.

Wildlife experts pointed out that summer conditions inside the sanctuary may be worsening the situation. As water sources dry up and food availability reduce inside the forest, leopards are increasingly moving closer to human pathways in search of prey. Pilgrims, meanwhile, often prefer to walk during the night or early morning to avoid daytime heat, unintentionally entering peak leopard activity hours. Sanctuary authorities earlier restricted pilgrimages between 7am and 5pm, even briefly banning certain forest routes, but enforcement has weakened, intensifying calls for permanent safety measures.

Falling reservoir levels raise water worries

With summer intensifying across the State, water storage levels in major reservoirs are steadily declining, raising concern particularly in the Cauvery basin. Although the KRS, Kabini, Hemavathi and Harangi reservoirs together have a storage capacity of 115 TMC, they currently hold only 53 TMC of water, compared to 57 TMC during the same period last year. Inflow into these reservoirs has dropped to just 130 cusecs, while outflow has risen sharply to 5,240 cusecs.

Reservoirs in the Krishna basin remain in relatively better condition, but across the State's 14 major dams, storage stands at only 36 to 38 per cent of total capacity, nearly 14 per cent lower than last year. The falling water level in the KRS reservoir, a key source for Bengaluru, Mysuru and several other cities, has become a major concern. Officials assure drinking water supply despite rapid reservoir depletion till June. –BMB

Olive Ridley numbers crash along coastline

The population of endangered Olive Ridley sea turtles along the Karnataka coast has declined by nearly 60 per cent this year compared to previous years, with officials suspecting climate change and extreme weather conditions as the primary reasons. The Forest Department, which carries out conservation efforts along nearly 260 km of coastline covering areas such as Kundapur, Byndoor and Sasihithlu, reported a sharp fall in the number of nests and hatchlings during the 2025-26 season. According to forest officials, only 820 eggs from seven nests were protected this year and 550 hatchlings were safely released into the sea, compared to 2,490 eggs and 1,842 hatchlings rescued during 2024-25. Olive Ridley turtles usually arrive on beaches between November and May to lay eggs before returning to the sea. Officials said a detailed scientific study is needed to determine the reasons behind the decline in turtle nesting this year. –BMB

Veterinary varsity V-C panel head mired in controversy

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Academicians have questioned the credentials of the chief of a committee that will select a panel of candidates for the post of Vice-Chancellor, Karnataka Veterinary Animal & Fisheries Sciences University (KVAFSU), Bidar.

According to the documents available with Bangalore Mirror, Dr HK Muniyellappa had written a detailed letter to the Governor on May 4, 2022, requesting to replace Dr. Umesh Chandra Sharma with a reputed academician and researcher with administrative excellence for maintaining the dignity of the search committee. Chandra Sharma does not hold a Ph.D degree and he allegedly produced fake documents to the Central Government for his nomination as a member to the Veterinary Council of India (VCI). It is said the Central Government, after ascertaining the facts, deleted his name as a member of VCI on December 16, 2016.

Chandra Sharma allegedly misused the State Emblem of India. The Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, in an office memorandum dated December 27, 2016, has asked the Secretary, VCI to look into the matter and also take necessary action against him for violation of the Act, under the provisions of State Emblem of India (Prohibition of Improper Use) Act, 2005 as amended from time to time. The Deputy Secretary asked the Secretary of VCI to intimate the action taken. Subsequently, the then Secretary of VCI informed Chandra Sharma, in a letter dated January 17, 2017, to discontinue the use of State Emblem of India on the DO letter head of the VCI.

It is said that Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) audited and directed the VCI to recover irregular payments made out of Council funds to the tune of Rs 39.18 lakh. A PIL was filed in the Delhi High Court and the court directed the government to take action to recover the Rs 39.18 lakh from him.

Questions raised over KVAFSU VC search committee chief's credentials

"In spite of flagging the questionable integrity of the chairman of the search committee, the honourable Governor, who is also the Chancellor, did not take suitable action. The result is: selecting the wrong candidate for the Vice-Chancellor's post. Dr KC Veeranna, who got selected for the VC post, does not hold a legitimate Ph.D degree," said Dr Muniyellappa.

He said that he found an irregular and unapproved thesis submitted by KC Veeranna in the Shodhganga Repository. "The anomalies include uncorrected or unapproved versions and clear misplacement of abstract and recommendation. The university concerned as well as the college refused to give out information about the clearance certificate issued and the date of completion of the Ph.D degree and the certified copy of the provision degree certificate," he said.

According to him, the forensic science expert's report identified clear dissimilarities and anomalies consisting of document tampering of the Ph.D degree certificate.

Govt mandates uniforms for Escom employees

The state government directed the entire field staff, including bill collectors, meter readers and linemen working with electricity supply companies, to compulsorily wear uniforms and official identity cards while on duty. The government order applies to all electricity supply companies (Escoms), including Bengaluru Electricity Supply Company, Hubli Electricity Supply Company, Mangaluru Electricity Supply Company, Gulbarga Electricity Supply Company and Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Company.

The directive was issued following a representation by State Police Complaints Authority member Mohan Kumar Danappa. In a letter to the Additional Chief Secretary of the Energy Department on April 6, he cited a shocking incident in Hubballi where an unknown person, dressed in uniform, allegedly collected money from consumers by posing as a bill collector. He urged mandatory uniforms and identity cards for Escom staff to prevent mistrust and confusion. –BMB

All that glitters is not gold

Mixed reaction to PM's message to restrict gold-buying from citizens; economist says it would help stabilise the rupee

The Prime Minister's speech urging Indian citizens to go slow on gold purchase for a year has sparked debates and conversations amongst Bengalureans, as 88 percent of India's gold reserves are in Karnataka. BM spoke to stakeholders to understand the impact of the statement.

According to city jewellers, the statement has got mixed reactions, as some customers feel gold jewellery purchase is customary in ceremonials and thereby cannot be overlooked or postponed, while others feel that purchases can be stalled for a few months keeping the ongoing war situation in mind.

Jewellers, however, said that there could be a slump in the second quarter of the financial year, which will pick up in the third quarter due to the festivals and auspicious time that begins from August. Some jewellers suggested that ornaments can be redesigned in exchange for old ornaments, which could satisfy the need of the hour.

"There was no directive by the PM to completely stop the purchase of gold. It is important to address the country's economic or financial strategy to be clear. So, people would have bought 400 grams of gold, may now buy 100 grams. We have observed a drastic change this time in the patterns of purchasing," said Ritesh Jain, CEO of Praveen Jewels.

According to a Bengaluru resident Namritha, politicians make confusing statements. "Citizens are already under pressure due to taxes, revenue degenerative schemes and fluctuating markets. Salaries remain constant, but levies show up every second day," she said.

Economists note that the statement could go beyond gold purchases alone and point towards larger concerns surrounding India's import dependency, global instability and foreign exchange.

"India is estimated to hold 34,600 tonnes of gold in households. With the rupee declining and set to cross Rs.100 per dollar, it is a wise call for citizens to avoid buying gold unless absolutely necessary. This approach could help India save approximately $71.98 billion in import costs, thereby reducing immediate demand for dollars," said Dr SR Keshava, Senior Professor of Economics, Bangalore University.

He explained that four major commodities -- gold, oil, fertilisers and edible oil -- account for 41 percent of the import bill, making India highly vulnerable during periods of geopolitical tension and war. "The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has been actively intervening in the foreign exchange market to prevent volatility and protect the rupee, which fell by more than 4 percent in March. The RBI has been selling dollars to stabilise the currency," he said.

According to Dr Keshava, gold becomes economically sensitive during periods of crisis because India imports nearly all of its gold demand. This reliance substantially impacts the current account deficit (CAD), foreign exchange reserves and currency stability. **—Vasudha Zora**

DISRUPTION DURING PM VISIT

NIA launches probe into gelatin sticks case

A day after explosives were found along Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bengaluru route, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) has joined the probe.

The suspicious package was allegedly discovered within the limits of Kaggalipura Police Station near the Kanakapura Road stretch leading to the Art of Living Foundation. According to the complaint filed by police constable Jagadish Doddamani of Kodihalli Police Station, security personnel were carrying out routine route sanitisation and bandobast duty when the suspicious object was noticed at around 9.45 am, lying in a vacant area near a mud road adjacent to a forest patch.

Apart from the NIA, officials from the NSG, RAW, central intelligence agencies, and the state intelligence wing also inspected the location. Authorities are analysing CCTV footage and local intelligence inputs. **BMB**

Man held for hoax bomb threat

A man has been arrested for allegedly making a bomb threat call during the Prime Minister's programme near the Art of Living centre on Kanakapura Road. City police commissioner Seemanth Kumar Singh confirmed that the threat was a hoax and said the accused was traced and detained within a few hours using technical surveillance.

The accused, identified as Lohith, was traced to KHB Colony in Koramangala after police tracked the call details. According to police, interrogation has revealed that the accused was mentally ill and had a history of making similar fake threat calls to police stations and investigating agencies. Police said he had access to contact numbers of various control rooms and would frequently make threatening calls. **BMB**

I love tough situations: How Krunal saved the day

Royal Challengers Bengaluru's Virat Kohli, right, with Krunal Pandya celebrates after winning the match on Sunday

Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) all-rounder Krunal Pandya said he enjoys playing under pressure and always prepares himself for challenging situations, following his match-winning 73 off 46 balls that helped Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) defeat Mumbai Indians (MI) by two wickets in a last-ball thriller in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 match on Sunday.

With RCB finding themselves at 39/3 in 5.1 overs in their chase of 167, Krunal Pandya stitched a crucial 55-run stand with Jacob Bethell (27) and a 37-run stand with Jitesh Sharma (18) to bring RCB closer to their target before he was eventually dismissed in the 18th over. After Krunal's wicket, Bhuvneshwar Kumar (7* off 2 balls) and Rasikh Salam Dar (3* off 2 balls) guided the hosts home on the last ball of RCB's innings.

Krunal, who was suffering from cramps, slammed five sixes and four boundaries in his innings. After the match, Krunal said he enjoys high-pressure situations and always prepares for them, but admitted he couldn't finish the game himself. He praised Bhuvneshwar's late six as the decisive moment in the match and noted that the Raipur pitch required patience and proper cricketing shots rather than aggressive stroke play.

"I love tough situations and I always prepare and look forward to those. Obviously wanted to finish the game but I was not able to do it but the shot that Bhuvi played was the shot of the match. It was a wicket where you have to play cricketing shots. Not the kind of wicket where you line up the bowlers. You have to apply and grind and play the knock," Krunal said. **—ANI**

Delhi struggles to outrun Punjab in tough chase

Punjab Kings (PBKS) produced a dominant batting display, riding on a strong top-order start and a solid finish to post a formidable target of 211 against Delhi Capitals (DC) in their IPL clash at the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association Stadium in Dharamsala on Monday evening.

Having been put in to bat, PBKS got off to a blazing start as openers Prabhsimran Singh and Priyansh Arya took Mitchell Starc apart for 22 runs in the very first over.

Today's battle
Gujarat Titans
vs
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7.30 PM Ahmedabad

Punjab Kings captain Shreyas Iyer celebrates after scoring a half-century

It marked the highest first over score by PBKS in IPL, surpassing the 21 runs they had managed against the Mumbai Indians earlier this season at Wankhede. The 22-run opening over also stood as the one in which Delhi Capitals conceded second-highest runs in a first over of an IPL match. They had conceded 23 runs against Kolkata Knight Riders at Eden Gardens in 2024.

The momentum did not slow down, with Punjab reaching the 50-run mark in just 2.4 overs. This also became the fastest team fifty recorded by PBKS in IPL. After the end of the fourth over, the hosts were 59/0.

Priyansh brought up his fifth half-century in the tournament in the fifth over, reaching the landmark in just 24 balls.

The left-handed batter continued his fluent start, keeping the momentum firmly with the batting side.

At the end of the power play, the Kings were comfortably placed at 72/0.

During the fifth ball of the seventh over, speedster Mukesh Kumar broke the opening partnership of 78 after he dismissed Prabhsimran for 18 runs.

Madhav Tiwari struck in the ninth over to dismiss the well-set Priyansh, who departed for a brisk 56 off 33 balls, as Kings slipped to 97/2. Despite the setback, Punjab brought up the 100-run mark shortly after, reaching 107/2 at the end of the 10th over.

Skipper Shreyas Iyer and Cooper Connolly then steadied the innings and kept the scoring rate healthy. **—ANI**

SC stays recount result, restores Rajegowda as Sringeri MLA in interim relief

The Supreme Court on Monday granted an interim relief to Congress leader TD Rajegowda, allowing him to continue as the MLA from Karnataka's Sringeri constituency for the time being, despite a recent vote recount that had declared BJP candidate DN Jeevaraj the winner.

A bench of Justices Sanjay Kumar and K Vinod Chandran directed restoration of status quo ante (state of affairs before the recount), while observing that the Returning Officer's exercise of reverifying already validated postal ballots was prima facie invalid.

Thus, restoring Rajegowda as MLA for now, and also directed that steps be taken to restore him as MLA.

"All steps taken in pursuance of the aforestated exercise undertaken by the returning officer

shall remain in abeyance till the appeal is decided. Such order requires restoration of status quo ante and steps shall be taken to effect the same," it ordered.

The matter relates to the 2023 Karnataka Assembly elections, where Congress's Rajegowda was declared the winner from the Sringeri constituency by a narrow margin of 201 votes.

The outcome was later challenged by BJP candidate Jeevaraj through an election petition before the Karnataka High Court.

The High Court on April 6 directed a recount of postal ballots, including the re-verification of 279 rejected postal votes. Subsequently, on May 3, 2026, the Returning Officer announced a revised result, reportedly deducting 255 votes from Rajegowda's tally and declaring Jeevaraj as the winning candidate.

Rajegowda then moved the Supreme Court, filing an appeal against the High Court order. Rajegowda contended that though the High Court had only ordered the re-verification of 279 rejected postal ballots, the Returning Officer also recounted 562 valid postal ballots that were in Rajegowda's favour.

The apex court has now posted the matter for further hearing on May 21. **ANI**

Better park in authorised spaces equipped with CCTV surveillance

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

after a resident of Gollahalli lodged a complaint on January 4, stating that his bike had been stolen from outside his house during the night. During the investigation, police detained a suspect near Veerasandra Lake on April 5 along with a stolen bike. The accused confessed to multiple vehicle thefts across Bengaluru.

Police said the accused, along with an associate from Andhra Pradesh, created fake RC cards and sold stolen vehicles through Facebook advertisements at lower prices. Based on the information, police recovered 51 stolen bikes from various locations and arrested the second accused involved in forging documents. The operation helped solve 27 theft cases across Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu.

According to police data, 5,054 two-wheeler theft cases were reported in 2022, of which 1,935 cases were detected. The number of cases peaked in 2023 with 5,927 reported thefts, but the recovery rate continued to remain low, with only 2,166 vehicles traced. In 2024, the cases slightly declined to 5,414, while detections remained nearly stagnant at 2,101 cases, resulting in a recovery rate of around 38 percent. In 2025, the number of theft cases further dropped to 4,350, of which 1,444 cases were solved. However, in 2026, despite 1,460 vehicles being reported stolen so far, only 123 vehicles have been recovered, bringing the detection rate to less than 10 percent.

Police officials said that stolen two-wheelers are often dismantled and sold as spare parts in illegal markets, while some vehicles are transported to neighbouring districts and states using fake registration plates and forged documents. Police officials also noted that professional vehicle theft gangs frequently target parked bikes in crowded commercial areas, metro stations, residential layouts, and poorly monitored streets with low light areas.

Senior police officials said negligence by vehicle owners also contributes to the problem. Many riders continue to leave vehicles unattended without handle locks, disc locks, or GPS tracking devices. In several

instances, owners reportedly forget or leave the keys inside the ignition while making quick stops, making it easier for thieves to escape within seconds.

They also noted that in some cases they only take body parts of the vehicle and sell it as there is strong demand for second hand spare parts in the market.

"Two-wheeler thefts and accessory thefts are increasing mainly because many vehicles are left unattended overnight on residential roads. The issue is further worsened by the lack of proper parking facilities in several buildings and residential complexes. Citizens also need to take responsibility by avoiding parking vehicles on public roads and instead ensuring adequate parking space within their properties. The RTO should also verify local addresses during vehicle registration and monitor how many vehicles are registered under a single address. Police alone cannot be blamed for safeguarding private vehicles left abandoned in public spaces, which also contributes to traffic congestion and chaos on narrow roads," said Vinod Jacob, urban strategist & mobility crusader.

Police officials have advised citizens to install anti-theft devices such as GPS trackers and disc locks, avoid parking in isolated areas, and use authorised parking spaces equipped with CCTV surveillance.

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I, M SWARNAKIRAN, Father of KRITIN SWARNAKIRAN Resident at 194/B, 3rd Main, 6th Cross, Avalahalli New BDA Layout, BSK 3rd Stage, Bangalore-560085 have changed my son's name from KRITIN S to KRITIN SWARNAKIRAN vide affidavit dated 11-05-2026 sworn before notary S.N MADHU, Bangalore.

I, PRATIK SACHDEV S/o Deepak Sachdev Residing at No Flat no 302, Bldig No 77, SVR Homes, 1st Cross, Samasandrapalya, HSR Layout Sec - 2, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560102 have changed my name to PRATEEK SACHDEV vide affidavit dated 11/5/2026 Before Notary K.V.Mani Bangalore.

I, Netravathi N (Nagesh) W/o Ramesha Venkatashamaiah R/o No 30/1, 2nd Main Road Near Akandeshwara Temple, Byrasandra Jayanagar 1st Block, Bengaluru -560011 have changed my name to Nethra Ramesh for all purposes

I, Dhananjay Nanjaiah Madhu S/o, Madhu Nanjaiah R/o #302,Abhinand Gardenia, Manjunath Nagar, Uttarahalli,B'luru 560061 have changed my name to Dhananjaya Nanjaiah Madhu.

I, Shambhulingayya Karjagimath R/o #38, K R Road Manonandana School Basauanagudi B'lore-560004 have changed my name to Shambhulinga P K

I, Sweety Kumari Gupta, R/O 72, Bluejay 9 forum Basapura main road. Vittasandra changed my name to Sweety Kumari.

I, GOWTHAM S Residing at No 38,1 ST CRS K C Krishna reddy Lyt, Near Katteramm Devi Temple, Maragondanahalli, Bengaluru-560036, have changed my name to GOUTHAM S vide affidavit dated 11/5/2026 Before Notary K.V.Mani Bangalore

I Abirami Vinothkumar W/o E. Vinothkumar #404, 4th floor, GR Residency, 1st Main Road, Garvebhavi Palya, Kudlu, Bommanahalli Bangalore-560068 have changed my name to Abirami for all purposes

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KASHI GAYA PRAYAG/HARIDWAR* 11/16* DAYS
MAY: 17 25, JUNE: 1,, 15, 24
GUJARATH RAJASHAN 12/16* AUG: 30 SEPT: 1, 8 , 13 SEPT: 14, 21
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Mango lovers can pluck and choose

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

cultivation and appreciate the effort involved in growing premium fruit varieties. A senior official from the Karnataka State Mango Development and Marketing Corporation said, "The concept has been inspired by developed countries such as the United States, where apple-picking tours are already a major attraction." The initiative is expected to be the first organised mango-picking tour undertaken by a government-backed corporation in the country.

He noted that despite financial constraints and a lower mango yield this season, the corporation is still keen on organising the programme because of the growing popularity of such experiential farm visits.

Mango arrivals are expected to peak in the Kolar region by the end of May, following which the tours are likely to begin in June.

Meanwhile, the ongoing Mango and Jackfruit Fair at Cubbon Park in Bengaluru has received an enthusiastic response from the public. In just three days, more than eight tonnes of mangoes have reportedly been sold, while jackfruit sales have crossed nearly 200 kilograms.

Around 50 mango stalls and seven jackfruit stalls have been set up at the fair, attracting heavy crowds over the weekend. The exhibition and sale event will continue at Cubbon Park until May 17, reflecting the strong demand for seasonal fruits and the growing public interest in farm-fresh produce and fruit-based tourism experiences.

HEALTH TIP: Almonds and walnuts reduce LDL cholesterol and provide omega-3 fats with antioxidant benefits

Fenugreek seeds help lower blood sugar, cholesterol and triglycerides while supporting heart health

BEYOND MOTHERHOOD, FINDING PURPOSE AGAIN

Bengaluru mothers confront loneliness, hormonal change and rediscover purpose beyond caregiving

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She was your first friend, your anchor, a lifelong companion softened at the edges yet tempered with steel, surviving the tests of time simply to remain by your side. But as children move towards more independent lives and homes grow quieter, many mothers find themselves confronting an unspoken and deeply personal transition, the emotional loss of purpose that follows years of caregiving.

Bengaluru's fast-paced life as a metropolitan tech hub has seen mothers balancing demanding jobs alongside caregiving duties for decades. As women age, many are simultaneously faced with menopause and empty nest syndrome, two transitions that often collide during the same phase of life, creating emotional and physical exhaustion or, as some mothers who spoke to BM described it, a "rebirth".

"I do get carried away and overwhelmed by the presence of my children, but somewhere I have my own self and create a small space for somebody called me. The mother tag, most often dragged on forever, should be there to enhance your individuality and aid your personal decisions about yourself," said Bharathi, 58, a retired professor, entrepreneur and mother of two daughters.

"It is easy to become a mother, but very difficult to let go of being one," said Grace, 60, a homemaker-turned-hiker and mother of three.

According to experts, this goes far beyond normal ageing. It is a major hormonal, psychological and physical transition that affects, and in some cases defines, women's identities, mental health, relationships and long-term wellbeing.

Dr Sneha Rajiv, Additional Director of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Fortis Hospital, Yeshwantpur, said many women continue to dismiss severe menopausal symptoms, often passing them off as ageing or stress.

"Some of the most common symptoms include irregular periods, hot flashes, night sweats, sleep disturbances, fatigue, mood changes, body aches, vaginal dryness and reduced concentration. Many women also complain of joint pain, headaches, palpitations, and changes in skin or hair quality," said Dr Sneha Rajiv.

She explained that menopause brings about a major decrease in oestrogen and progesterone production, disrupting various body systems. Hormonal changes can cause hot flashes, night sweats, sleep disturbances, fatigue, irritability, weight gain and difficulty concentrating, while hormonal shifts also affect mood regulation, insulin response, bone density and heart function.

Doctors note that urban lifestyles have significantly worsened menopausal symptoms, especially for women balancing demanding jobs, family responsibilities, long commutes, poor sleep and little time for themselves. Chronic stress increases cortisol production, intensifying anxiety, fatigue and hormonal imbalance, while lack of exercise and emotional isolation further reduce the body's ability to handle hormonal fluctuations.

Dr Sneha Rajiv pointed out that beyond menopause, women in this age group also face increased risks of osteoporosis, fractures, thyroid disorders, diabetes, cardiovascular disease and cancers including cervical, breast, ovarian and endometrial cancer.

"Awareness is still relatively limited. Many women associate menopause only with the end of menstrual cycles and may not fully understand its long-term health implications," she said. "Women should make preventive screenings their main focus by getting mammograms, Pap smears, blood sugar tests, cholesterol tests and bone health evaluations regularly."

Psychiatrist Dr Sachin Baliga told BM that motherhood in Indian family structures often becomes deeply tied to emotional value, purpose and identity, making the transition into an empty nest emotionally difficult for many women.

"Motherhood is often deeply intertwined with a woman's identity, emotional value and sense of purpose. Women, particularly in the Indian context, are culturally conditioned to prioritise caregiving roles above personal aspirations, careers or individual needs. Over time, their daily routines, emotional fulfilment and self-worth become strongly connected to caring for children and managing family responsibilities," said Dr Baliga.

According to him, empty nest syndrome is common among mothers, bringing loneliness, grief and a loss of routine as children become independent. Menopause can further intensify mood swings, anxiety and emotional sensitivity.

He said many women experience tearfulness, overthinking, emotional dependency on children and difficulty adjusting to quieter homes. Irritability, sleep disturbances and lack of motivation are also common. Women who prioritise family responsibilities for decades may later face emotional burnout, identity loss and increased emotional distance in marriages.

He added that this phase should also be seen as an opportunity for self-discovery through hobbies, friendships, work, fitness, spirituality or community involvement. Women must recognise that their value extends beyond caregiving and that fulfilment remains possible at every stage of life.

MIRRORLIGHTS

Scientists silence mouth bacteria signals to stop gum disease before it starts

Scientists have uncovered a surprising way to influence the bacteria living in our mouths, not by killing them, but by interrupting how they 'talk' to each other.

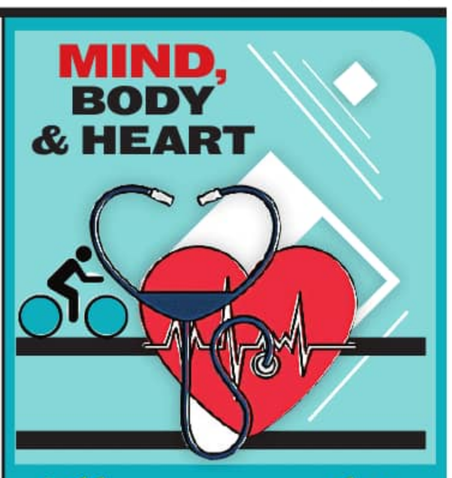
Researchers found that dental plaque bacteria use chemical signals, known as quorum sensing, to coordinate growth. By blocking these signals, scientists were able to encourage healthier bacteria while reducing microbes linked to gum disease.

The study, published in npj Biofilms and Microbiomes, examined how signalling molecules called N-acyl homoserine lactones (AHLs) shape the oral microbiome. Researchers from the College of Biological Sciences and the School of Dentistry discovered that bacteria above the gumline produce AHL signals in oxygen-rich environments, while those signals can also influence bacteria in oxygen-poor areas beneath the gums.

Using specialised enzymes called lactonases to remove AHL signals increased populations of bacteria associated with good oral health.

Researchers also found oxygen levels dramatically changed bacterial behaviour. Blocking AHL signalling in aerobic conditions promoted healthier bacteria, while adding AHLs in anaerobic conditions encouraged disease-associated microbes linked to periodontal disease.

Scientists believe the findings could lead to treatments that maintain a healthy microbial balance instead of destroying bacteria entirely. They also say the research may eventually influence therapies for other diseases linked to microbiome imbalances, including certain cancers. —ANI



All you need to know about...

Bedtime mistakes

You sleep eight hours and go to bed on time, yet still wake up exhausted. Often, everyday habits quietly disrupt sleep quality.

1. Scrolling on your phone or tablet in bed
Blue light from screens suppresses melatonin, while social media and news keep the brain alert.

2. Drinking caffeine after 2 pm
Caffeine stays in the body for hours, making sleep harder even after an afternoon coffee..

3. Inconsistent sleeping and waking times
Sleeping in at weekends disrupts your body clock. Even small schedule changes can cause "social jet lag".

4. Eating a large meal close to bedtime
Heavy or spicy late-night meals raise body temperature and may trigger acid reflux, both of which disturb deep sleep.

5. Exercising too late in the evening
Intense evening workouts can raise cortisol levels and body temperature, delaying sleep onset for many people.

6. Napping too long or too late
Late-afternoon naps or naps longer than 30 minutes can reduce sleep pressure, making bedtime difficult.

7. Keeping your bedroom too warm
Your body needs to cool down for sleep. A warm bedroom interferes with this process and reduces deep sleep.

8. Drinking alcohol to "Help you sleep"
Alcohol may help you fall asleep faster, but it fragments sleep later in the night and reduces REM sleep.

9. Doom-scrolling news or checking work emails before bed
Stressful content triggers cortisol spikes that keep your nervous system alert and delay sleep. — Femina

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facebook.com/theBangaloremirror
@BangaloreMirror

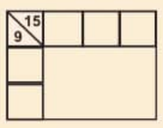
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

$(10^{x-2}) + (10^{x-4}) + (10^{x-2}) = 20100$

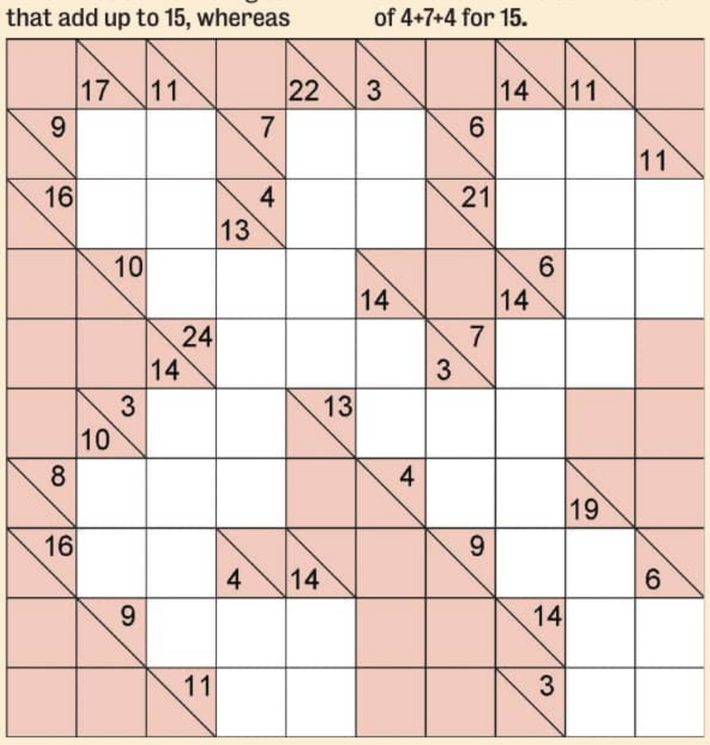
x=?

Kakuro

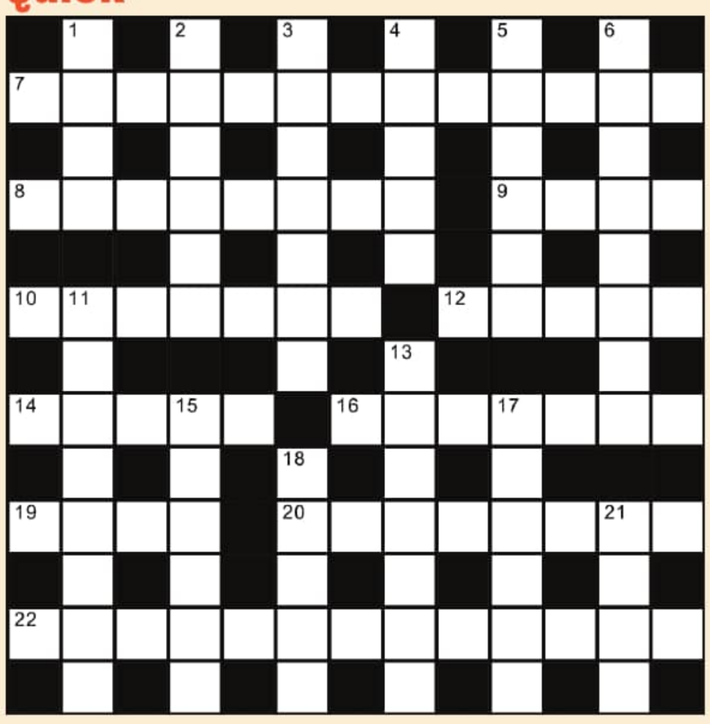
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Inclined to steal (5-8)
8 Raiment (8)
9 Inlets (4)
10 Tells (7)
12 Suck dry (5)
14 White heron (5)
16 Horrible (7)
19 The French for 'blue' (4)
20 Attacked physically or verbally (8)
22 X-ray photo of the brain (13)

DOWN

1 Watch face (4)
2 Poor quarter (6)
3 Asserts positively (7)
4 Unexpected difficulties that arise (5)
5 This lake can be found along the junction of Bellary Road and the Outer Ring Road (6)
6 Extremely healthy? (4,4)
11 Irritating and persistent (8)
13 High-pitched sound (7)
15 Drips, leaks or secretes (6)
17 Oscillates (6)
18 Turkish title (5)
21 Dutch cheese (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: X EQUALS T

UAVPCXVOVA XERYMEX QCW VXU ADPQXVRC VU XEP AR-LLRC QCW UEQDPW EPDVXQMP RO LQCZVCW.

Linemaro

I am sweating because you are so hot

Mindchow

It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge

Joke of the day

Americans will put up with anything provided it doesn't block traffic

Loop

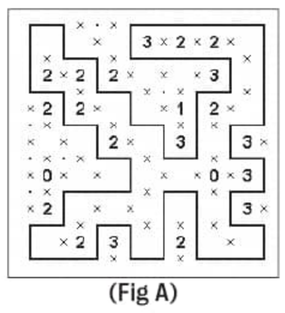
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

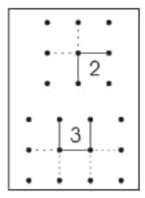
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

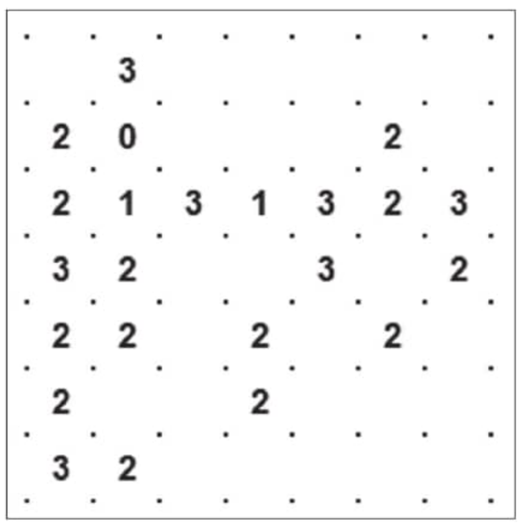
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



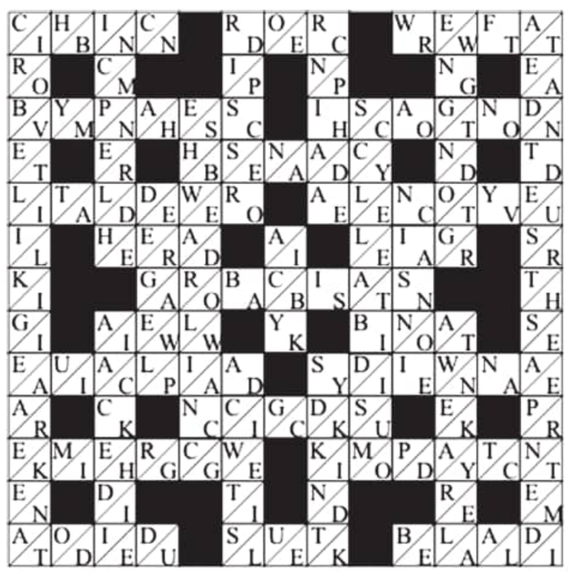
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



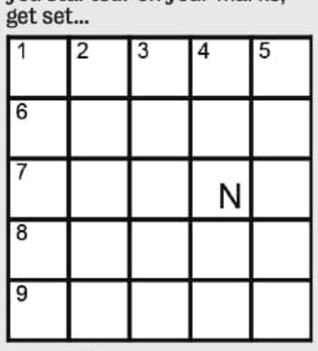
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

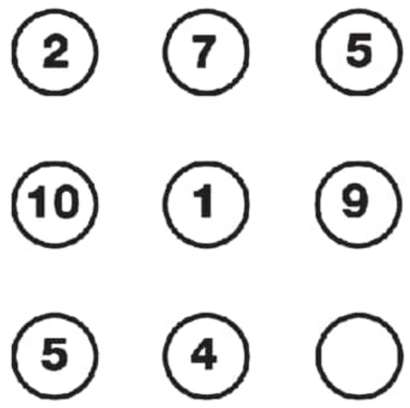
1 Was if; 6 OK OBE (1-4); 7 In Ben; 8 Li Dee; 9 Re Cur

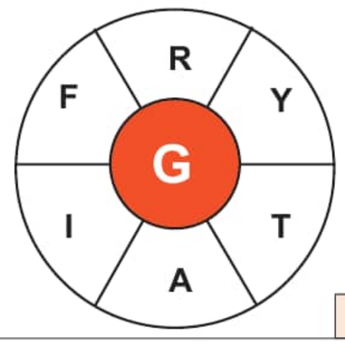
DOWN

1 Reb we; 2 Ale be; 3 I icon; 4 Found; 5 Rek is

Mensapuzzle

Which number should be added to the empty circle?





Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

04 Average; 05 Good; 06 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

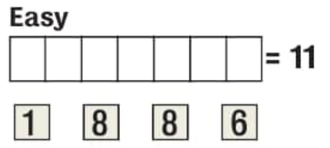
1		7	6		5	4		3
2								6
	5			1			2	
	6		5		8		7	
9								8
	8		1		7		3	
	4			6			1	
5								7
8		3	7		9	2		4

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

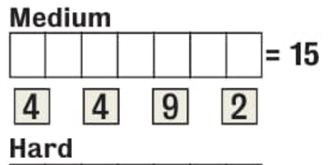
Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

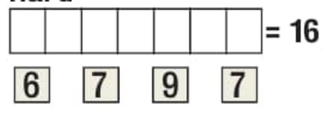
Easy



Medium



Hard



Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

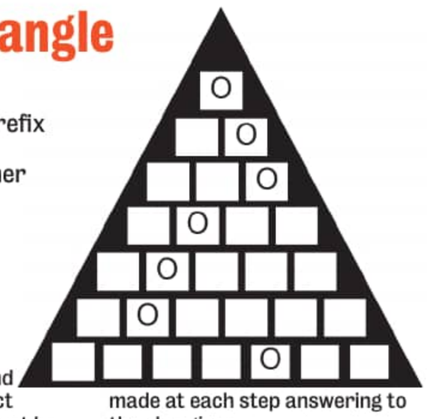
Differences: 1. Vanity top is wider. 2. Man is thinner. 3. Woman's hair is longer. 4. Tube is larger. 5. Back of chair is bigger. 6. Rug is larger.

Riddler

I live with more Than two score (Some of royalty). But of them all One I call Brother–twin of me. I make them laugh With my staff, Foster gaiety. And when a deal Must be real, You get rid of me Who or what am I?

Alpha triangle

1 Circular letter
2 Care of, abbr.
3 Environmental prefix
4 Furnace fuel
5 English philosopher
6 Keepsake holder
7 Horse's leg joint

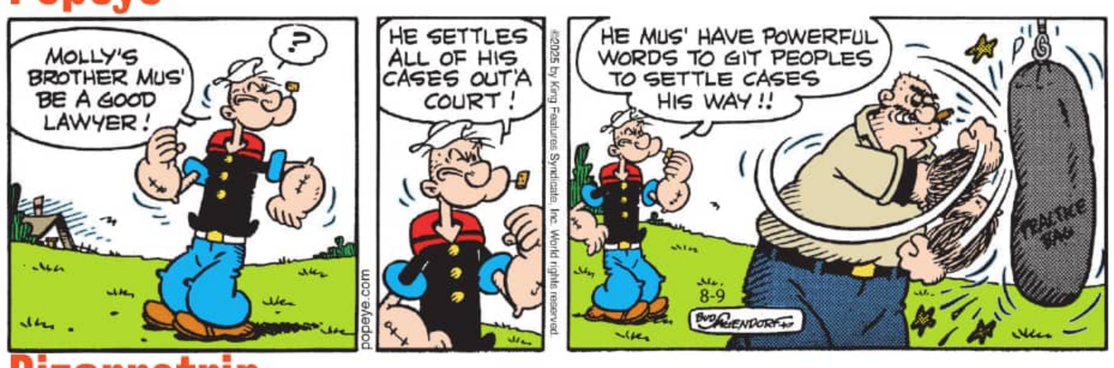


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye


MOLLY'S BROTHER MUS' BE A GOOD LAWYER!
?
HE SETTLES ALL OF HIS CASES OUT'A COURT!
HE MUS' HAVE POWERFUL WORDS TO GIT PEOPLES TO SETTLE CASES HIS WAY!!
PRACTICE BAG
8-9
popeye.com
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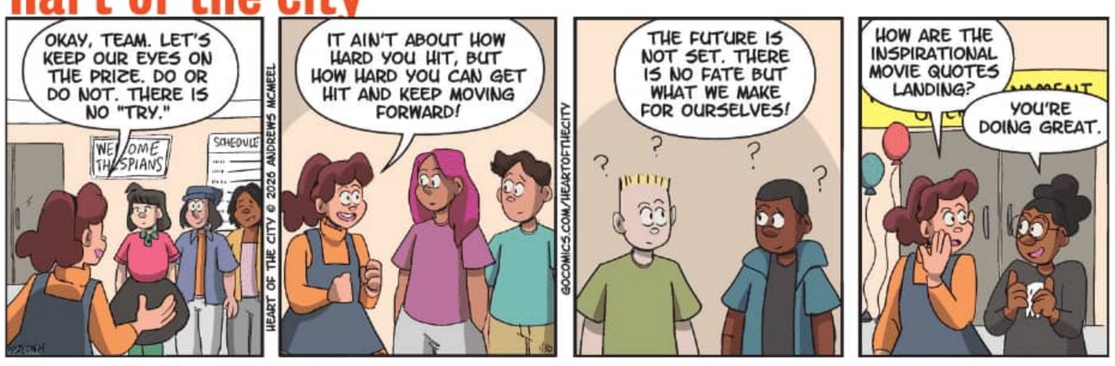
Bizarrotrip

REALITY
Wayno & Piraro 1-29-26
We're looking for a one-story home with plenty of hallways and a single exit.
BIZARRO.COM ©2026 BIZARRO STUDIOS
Dist. by King Features

Diamond Lil

...SO WE CAN'T AGREE ON ANY PIZZA TOPPINGS?!
I GUESS NOT
...THEN ALL THAT LEAVES US IS THE CRUST!
THICK OR THIN?
©2015 creators.com
www.creators.com

Hart of the city


OKAY, TEAM. LET'S KEEP OUR EYES ON THE PRIZE. DO OR DO NOT. THERE IS NO "TRY."
WELCOME THESPIANS
SCHEDULE
IT AIN'T ABOUT HOW HARD YOU HIT, BUT HOW HARD YOU CAN GET HIT AND KEEP MOVING FORWARD!
THE FUTURE IS NOT SET. THERE IS NO FATE BUT WHAT WE MAKE FOR OURSELVES!
HOW ARE THE INSPIRATIONAL MOVIE QUOTES LANDING?
YOU'RE DOING GREAT.
HEART OF THE CITY © 2026 ANDREWS MCMEEL
@GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft

DO YOU EVER MISS THE DIRECTING, HARRY?
YES... THERE ARE STILL MORNINGS WHEN I WAKE UP READY TO PUT ON THE UNIFORM AND TAKE THE FIELD...
AND THEN I GO... NOW WHAT?
OMEA
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BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books
1-29

Mutts

IF THE GROUNDHOG SEES HIS SHADOW THERE'LL BE SIX MORE WEEKS OF WINTER!
HA HA HA
WHO MADE HIM BOSS?
mutts.com
www.kingfeatures.com
MUTTS © PATRICK MCDONNELL · DISTRIBUTED BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE 1-29

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR

If it's your birthday today

Endurance is your superpower this year. You will face challenges that require long-term commitment and steady effort. Success is not immediate, but it is guaranteed if you do not give up. A difficult situation at work finally resolves in your favour by late October. Maintain your physical strength through regular movement; your body is your vehicle for this success.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20

You held your ground and that courage opened a powerful turning point, helping you align dreams, plans, and actions while building consistency and now enjoying well-earned rewards from your efforts.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20

Rest and a slower pace call you, yet steady effort and focus will nurture opportunities into lasting stability, when you release disappointment and accept your path, allowing momentum to return.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21

You may feel discouraged, but success grows through collaboration, so invite support, share goals, and revive your vision with others, allowing fresh energy and teamwork to carry you forward again.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23

Release self-doubt and hesitation, and step into confident action, because freedom and abundance become accessible when you trust yourself, focus your intentions, and moving decisively toward the life you envision.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

You have worked hard, and by gaining perspective and embracing an abundance mind set, you can transform challenges into growth, close cycles gracefully, and welcome success and refinement into your life.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23

You are choosing happiness and moving forward with faith, trusting your instincts and guidance, and allowing love and confidence to replace fear, helping you navigate life with strength and clarity.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22

You have grown through self-reflection, and if you feel uncertain, turning inward with awareness will help you understand emotions, strengthen intuition, and guide you toward fulfilling ideas and meaningful experiences.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22

Progress feel slower, but you are evolving, healing, and stepping into a new phase, so focus forward, release past patterns, and build supportive connections where you feel valued and free.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22

You have embraced growth and reached a fresh beginning, so blend practicality with vision, use what you have wisely, and take steady steps to turn your ideas into lasting success.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20

Happiness surrounds you when you slow down, stay consistent, and trust your progress, letting go of perfectionism and over thinking while continuing disciplined efforts that move you forward toward your goals.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19

Protect your ideas by sharing them selectively, staying focused on your goals, and letting actions demonstrate vision, because confidence grows when you trust yourself instead of seeking approval from others.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20

You moving toward a new chapter, so release nostalgia and embrace opportunities ahead, trusting what is changing is guiding you toward freedom, growth, and a future aligned with your desires.

www.sundeepkochar.com

KIDZONE

Krishna, 6 years, Vibhudhipura Govt School

Aayana Nidumanda, 9 years, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M

2 (10^(x − 2)) + 10^(x − 2) = 20100
2 (10^(x − 2)) + 10^(x − 2)(1/100) = 20100
(200 (10^(x − 2)) + 10^(x − 2)) /100 = 20100
201 (10^(x − 2))/ 100 = 20100
(10^(x − 2))/ 100 = 100
10^(x − 2) = 10^4
x − 2 = 4
x = 6

RIDDLER

Joker

BULL'S EYE

gait, gift, girt, graft, GRATIFY, grit

FAST FIVE

W	A	I	F	S
E	B	O	O	K
E	L	I	D	E
B	E	N	N	I
R	E	C	U	R

STRIKE OUT

C	H	I	C	R	O	C	W	E	F	T				
O	M		I	N		G		E						
B	Y	P	A	S	S	I	S	O	G	O	N			
E		E	H	E	A	D	Y	N		D				
L	A	D	D	E	R	A	L	C	O	V	E			
I		A	R	A	B	I	A	N		H				
L	E	R	A		A	L	A	G		R				
G	A	W	L		Y		B	O	A	E				
E	U	C	L	I	D	S	I	E	N	N	A			
R	C	N	I	C	K	S		K		R				
E	M	E	R	G	E		I	M	P	A	C	T		
N	D		T		N							E		
T	O	E	D		S	U	K		B	A	L	D		

QUICK

			G		S		A		E		S		M	
	E	N	C	E	P	H	A	L	O	G	R	A	M	
			I		D		S		T		N		D	
B	L	E	U		A	S	S	A	I	L	E	D		
			G		I		P				W			
E	G	R	E	T		G	H	A	S	T	L	Y		
			I				S		W			L		
I	N	F	O	R	M	S		B	L	E	E	D		
		C	L	O	T	H	I	N	G		B	A	Y	S
		A		E		F		A		B		R		
L	I	G	H	T	F	I	N	G	E	R	E	D		
		D		G		A		S		H		V		

MENSA PUZZLE

1. The figures in the right hand column equal the difference between the numbers in the left and centre columns.

QUOTE UNCODE

Scientific thought and its creation is the common and shared heritage of mankind.

SUDOKU

8	1	3	7	5	9	2	6	4
5	2	6	4	8	1	3	9	7
7	4	9	3	6	2	8	1	5
4	8	5	1	9	7	6	3	2
9	7	1	2	3	6	5	4	8
3	6	2	5	4	8	9	7	1
6	5	4	8	9	3	1	2	7
2	3	8	9	7	4	1	5	6
1	9	7	6	2	5	4	8	3

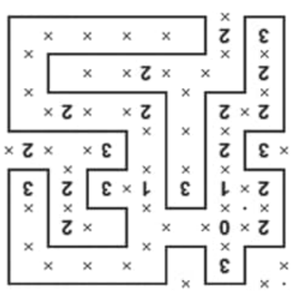
ALPHA TRIANGLE

0, Co, Eco, Goke, Locke, Locket, Fetlock.

GO FIGURE

Easy
8 − 6 + 8 + 1 = 11
Medium
4 + 9 − 2 + 4 = 15
Hard
7 / 7 + 9 + 6 = 16

LOOP



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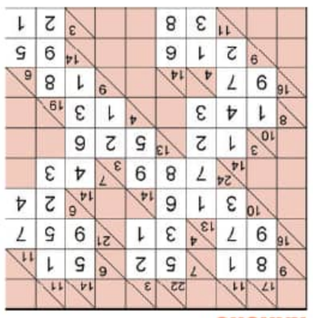

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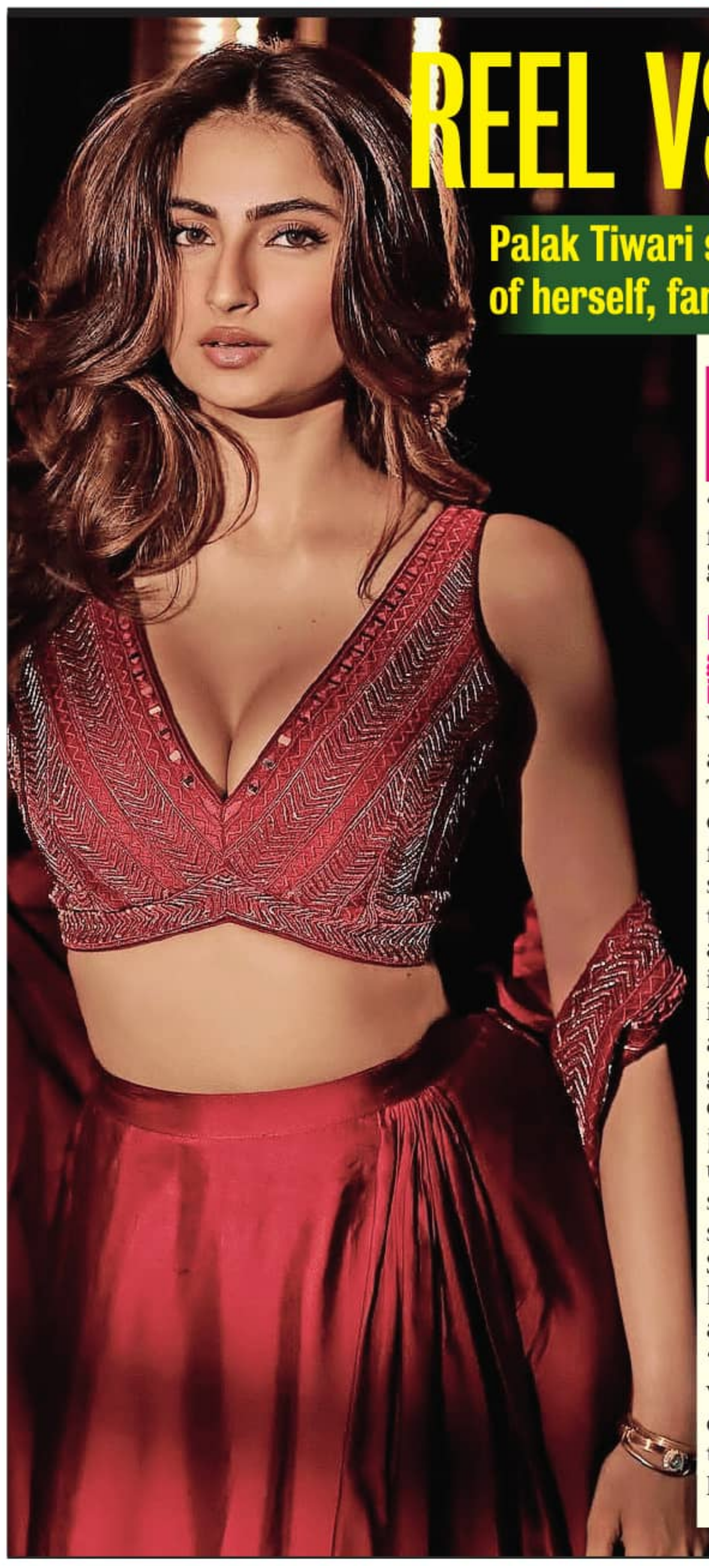
 # ED opposes plea
Tells court Jacqueline Fernandez was an 'active participant' in Rs 200 crore money laundering case

REEL VS REAL IMAGE

Palak Tiwari says new role lets her show truer side of herself, far from glamorous image seen online



Palak Tiwari is slowly carving her own identity in the entertainment industry, and with her latest series 'Lukkhe', the actor says she finally feels seen beyond the glamorous image attached to her.

Breaking her glamorous image with 'Lukkhe'

With her latest series 'Lukkhe', in a recent interview with India Today, Palak says she finally got a chance to play a character that feels much closer to her real personality. The actor, who essays the role of Sanobar in the show, admitted that the glamorous image people see on social media is far removed from who she actually is in everyday life. "The girl presented on social media, I don't think she even exists! I am just a sensor that people are using to sell their product," she said. Palak further explained that she connected deeply with Sanobar because the role allowed her to portray emotional vulnerability and strong family values. "Over here, I get to be the closest version of me. Because in my day-to-day life, I am somebody that cries, I am somebody that loves ferociously, I am somebody that fights for my family," she shared.

While playing the character came naturally to her, Palak admitted that convincing people she could fit such a role was the real challenge. "The challenge is to have somebody see me as Sanobar, which this team did. And I think that was half my work done. The rest was just to prove them right," she said. She added that she often struggles with industry stereotypes.

What Shweta Tiwari told her about acting

Palak also spoke about the guidance she received from her mother, actor Shweta Tiwari, before entering the entertainment industry. "My mom always says work only comes to those who love and respect their work. And that is something I live by," she added. —ETimes

Bhumi to portray lawyer in upcoming film

Bhumi Pednekar was last seen in 'Mere Husband Ki Biwi', which received a modest response at the box office. Despite the film's lukewarm performance, the actress appears focused on choosing scripts that offer substantial emotional and dramatic scope. She is gearing up for another performance-driven role in her next film. The actress has reportedly signed an untitled courtroom drama in which she will portray a lawyer.

In December last year, Bhumi revealed that she had taken a nine-month break from acting after The Royals. The decision followed a period of intense online trolling that prompted her to step away from the industry for a while. The hiatus helped her reconnect with herself and reassess the kind of stories she wanted to tell. Reports later suggested that she would not return for the sequel to The Royals, as she was now interested in darker, layered and emotionally rich narratives.

According to an exclusive report by News18, Bhumi's upcoming film will be shot in Himachal Pradesh.

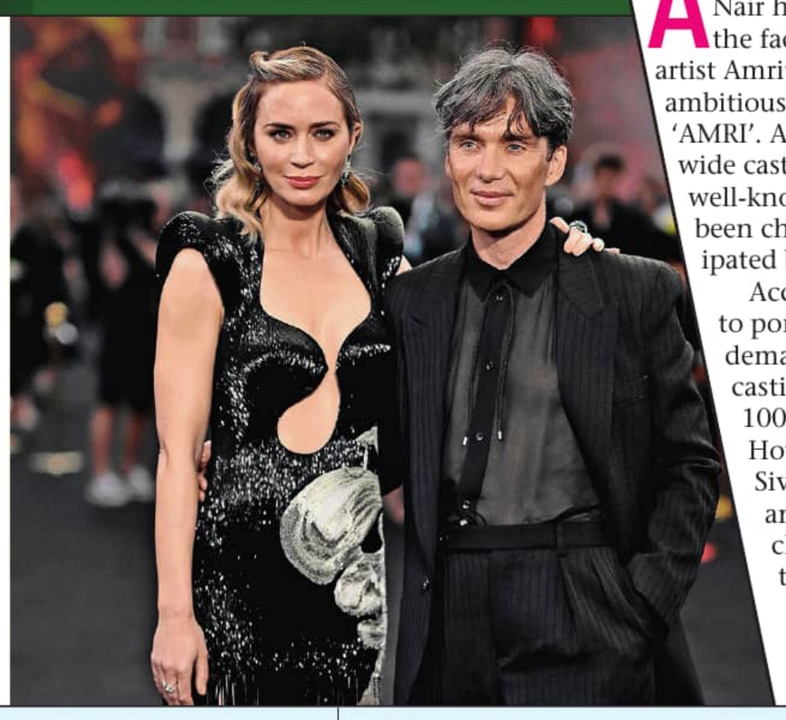
To prepare for the character, Bhumi has reportedly taken guidance from her sister, who practises law professionally. — ETimes

'A Quiet Place' sequel begins production

Production on 'A Quiet Place Part III', has officially kicked off with filmmaker John Krasinski confirming the news on social media.

Krasinski, who returns as the writer, director and producer of the latest instalment in the post-apocalyptic horror franchise, shared a behind-the-scenes photo from the set in New York City on Instagram. The image featured a clapperboard placed in front of the Manhattan Bridge Arch and Colonnade in Chinatown. "Here. We. Go! #Part III," he captioned the post, sparking excitement among fans.

The decision to return to New York City to film the third part, has fuelled speculation that the new film could further explore the aftermath of the alien invasion introduced in the prequel. Part III will bring back Emily Blunt, Cillian Murphy, Millicent Simmonds and Noah Jupe in lead roles. New additions to the franchise include Jack O'Connell, Jason Clarke and Katy O'Brian. —ETimes



Anjali Sivaraman bags lead role in 'AMRI'

Acclaimed filmmaker Mira Nair has finally found the face of legendary artist Amrita Sher-Gil for her ambitious international project 'AMRI'. After an extensive worldwide casting search involving several well-known Bollywood names, actor Anjali Sivaraman has been chosen to play the iconic painter in the much-anticipated biographical drama.

According to Variety India, finding the perfect actor to portray Amrita Sher-Gil was reportedly a long and demanding process. Mira Nair, along with celebrated casting director Dilip Shankar, auditioned more than 100 actresses from different parts of the world. However, Mira Nair ultimately chose Anjali Sivaraman for her striking resemblance to Sher-Gil and the emotional intensity she brought to the character. Anjali Sivaraman, who gained recognition through projects like the Netflix series 'Class' and the film 'Cobalt Blue', is now set to headline one of the most ambitious biopics in recent years. —ETimes

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Breaking new ground

Renowned Sandalwood music director B Ajaneesh Loknath, celebrated for scoring chart-topping hits across Kannada cinema, is stepping into a new role. Known for crafting soundtracks that have powered many box-office successes, Ajaneesh is now set to bring his music directly to audiences through a live concert on May 16. An event was held at MMB Legacy recently to announce the plan to organise the live music concert.

"All these years, many music lovers used to ask me when I will organise a live music concert. I was waiting to organise a live music concert but had no opportunity. Now, I am very happy to have the opportunity to realise the dream of my fans," said Loknath.

He said that his journey in Sandalwood began in 2003 under the guidance of music director K Kalyan. "I used to work as a session musician and an arranger under K Kalyan sir....My ambition was to score good music and I accomplished that task. Now, I am happy to organise a live music concert," he said. Renowned playback singers like Vijay Prakash, Mangli, Nakash Aziz, Ananya Bhat, Sanvi Sudeep, Sanjit Hegde, Harishankar, Abbi V, Vasuki Vaibhav, Anirudh Shastri, Aishwarya Rangarajan, Ramdas, Sai Vignesh, Harishika, and Baby will participate in the music concert.

14 glorious years

Hardcore fans and well-wishers have been showering their favorite heroine, Rachita Ram, with heartfelt wishes as she marks 14 successful years in the film industry. Fondly known as the Dimple Queen, Rachita has captivated audiences with her enduring beauty, grace and charm.

Rachita Ram, originally named Vindya Ram, began her career acting in television serials before stepping into cinema. Her transformation came in 2013 when she debuted as a heroine under the name Rachita Ram in the film Bulbul, starring opposite Challenging Star Darshan.

Beyond her memorable pairings with Darshan, she has also acted alongside Kiccha Sudeep, Puneeth Rajkumar, Shiva Rajkumar and Ramesh Aravind.

Her career highlight extended beyond Sandalwood when she had the rare opportunity to work with Superstar Rajinikanth in the Tamil film Coolie. In this project, she took on a villainous role, earning praise from both critics and audiences. As of now, she has been acting in Kannada movies Criminal and Ayogya 2. She is also reportedly in talks with a prominent Tamil movie production house and is set to act in two Telugu movies as well.